

Foreman's Report March 9 thru April 5, 2013

Snow and winter is still the main story with the Town crew, dealing with snow piles, plowing, winging, scraping ice, thawing culverts, keeping the water flowing where it is designed to flow and the trees have been taken off the ice.

I have called Dick back to work starting April 8th and he'll start prepping bathrooms for opening, going through mowers and weed whackers, and general spring cleaning.

We have addressed the items listed in the orders issued by the State safety inspectors and feel the orders have been rectified for the most part.

The shop computer has been giving me fits, and had to send it down to HSI in order to have them restore to factory settings, although HSI feels I should get a new computer and gave me a quote for one. I hope to hobble through with this one however and will budget for a new one for the new foreman.

Industrial Zone

The construction company that will be installing the fiber optic this summer all over the island has requested some staging area space for storing equipment and materials in the industrial zone area. We, including Michael, roughly determined the area necessary and they have agreed to pay the going rate for leasing an industrial zone lot.

I have talked with Bill Sande, with the USACOE, and he feels we should have a permit here fairly soon, but we will be required to have another Phase I Archaeological Survey done. I told him this is ridiculous, as this whole area was totally disturbed due to the prior farming and then subsequent airport construction, and he then asked if we had any documentation regarding the land disturbance. He went on to say that all wetland permits in the future will all for the most part require Archaeological Surveys.

Pilot's Lounge

I feel the need to follow up on the public comment I heard at the March 12th meeting regarding the flooding at the pilot's lounge, which was totally inaccurate, overblown and biased. I must thank the messenger for alerting me to the situation and in turn I immediately alerted Evan and Michael, who went and cleaned up the water within the hour. There was a small puddle at the base of the south wall, with water amounting to less than a gallon, after which a dehumidifier was placed in the lounge which picked nothing. Hopefully there will not be any mold development. This is going to be an ongoing problem however, as there is no drainage to speak of away from the building, unlike the rest of the hangars that have for the most part deep swales to move the water away and most of which enjoy a storm sewer system.

When Tibbs gave a price for fixing the lounge he wanted a drain tile installed, which would have been pricey, and difficult due to the lack of grade. A drain tile might be possible, and may be necessary at some point, but for now I think in the end increased monitoring is the best solution with better snow removal. The crew has kept the front of the building free of snow for the most part, but in the future no snow can be allowed to accumulate in front of that building. I don't know how an eaves trough will work there, as possibly heavy rain can deliver the same results.

Griggs Approach

There have been three contractors that have asked for plans, and hopefully we will have a reasonable bid within cost estimates.

Big Bay Town Park

I would like a discussion at the April 9th meeting regarding an entrance sign for the park.

Nelson Surveyors have given me a quote to survey the roads within the park, which would be necessary for declaring the roads as official Town roads. I have discussed this possibility with Greg, and we feel having the roads as Town roads would enable us to strengthen our State transportation aids due to the increased costs for construction and continued maintenance of these roads. This was not specifically budgeted for, but I try to leave wiggle room within the roads administration line item for surveys, etc. The Class I Notice has been placed in the paper regarding the purchase of electrical materials, and the process is moving forward.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Sowl
Town Foreman
Town of La Pointe